financial year, 4.43 lakh families are proposed to be assisted.

(b) and (c) Under Integrated Rural Development Programme, Central funds to the State Governments are allocated on the basis of their rural population below the poverty line. Funds to the districts are released on the basis of the criteria adopted by the State Governments. Members of Parliament and State Legislatures and members of governing council of the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) which approve the annual plan and oversee implementation of IRDP.

Losses caused by pesticides

1366. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Statesman dated the 22nd September, 1991 entitled "pesticides endanger marine life" as per the findings of the *National Institute of Oceanography*; if so, the details of the losses incurred during the last three years;

(b) whether Government are aware of the other losses caused by pesticides on ecology and environment and whether these losses have been worked out alongwith the estimated losses of the foodgrains due to pests ; and

(c) what corrective measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The date collected indicate concentration of different chlorinated pesticides in marine organisms in varying ranges. These concentrations have been found to be too low to be of any serious consequence to marine environment, flora and fauna.

(b) As compared to the loss of food grains due to pests, the damage caused by pesticides on ecology and environment is reported to be alomost negligible.

(c) The Government has taken safety measures in this regard, which *inter alia*, include the use of biological, mechanical and other means, besides encouraging use of pesticides in only limited degree wherever necessary.

Mystry of 'Lake of No Return'

1367. SHRI BHADRESHWAR BURAGOHAIN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government are aware of that there is a lake in Indo-Burma Border in the North East called 'Lake of No Return';

(b) whether Government are also aware that no individual or Animal could ever return from this lake and the area is sealed since a long time; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSIONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.